



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

[www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org)

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

November 2008

**\*\*Note that our meeting location has changed!\*\***

**Program – Threatened And Endangered Plants of the New Jersey Pine Barrens  
Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at The Wenonah Community Center  
Presenter: Russell Juelg, Director of Outreach, The Pinelands Preservation Alliance  
Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks (856) 468-6342**

The New Jersey Pine Barrens covers approximately 1.1 million acres of the outer coastal plain of Central and Southern New Jersey. This ecologically sensitive region is home to an estimated eight-hundred and fifty species of plants and three hundred and fifty species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Some northern species reach their southern limit here and a number of southern species grow no further north than here. The pinelands bogs and fens harbor exotic carnivorous plants such as the Pitcher Plant, three species of Sundews and several species of Bladderworts. Pine Barrens plant communities offer a rich diversity of flora from rare and delicate Orchids to road side carpets of Pinebarren Sandworts and pond margins rimed with Pipeworts .

The State of New Jersey lists 54 plant species in the Pinelands as threatened or endangered. Some such as the Swamp Pink, and Bog Asphodel are well known. Others such as the Sensitive-joint-Vetch, Curly Grass Fern, Pickering's Morning Glory and Pine Barrens Gentian have been viewed on recent GCNC field trips. Tonight we will learn as well about other rare and fascinating pinelands plants such as Chaffseed, New Jersey Rush and Boykin's Lobelia. Our presenter is Russell Juelg, a naturalist with The Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Director of Outreach for that organization. His presentation focuses on the plant species that occur in the Pinelands National Reserve and have legal protections because of their great rarity. The presentation includes out-standing color images of these rare and beautiful plants along with the respective range maps for the 54 plant species protected under the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. The talk includes an introduction to the legal protections that are in effect for these plants and their habitats, tips on identifying them and suggestions on the many ways we can help protect and restore their habitats and populations.



**The November meeting is the annual joint meeting of the GCNC and the South Jersey Land and Water Trust.**

**Directions to the new meeting location:** The Wenonah Community Center (former train station) is located at E. Mantua Avenue and N. East Avenue, Wenonah, NJ. From Woodbury, travel south on Woodbury-Glassboro Rd (Rt 553), and make a right at the light onto Mantua Avenue. The community center is approximately 1/2 of a mile ahead on the right (at the railroad crossing). There are small parking lots near the Community Center along East Ave and West Ave, plus additional parking is available along the surrounding streets.

**Field Trip – Nature and History at Fort Mott State Park and Vicinity  
Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM to mid-afternoon  
Trip Leader: Karl Anderson**

This 104-acre state park includes woodlands, wetlands, and a splendid view of the Delaware River and Pea Patch Island, as well as the historic (1896-1922) Fort Delaware. We will look for overwintering passerine birds along the Finn's Point Interpretive Trail, look for waterfowl on the river, do a bit of winter botany, and follow parts of the self-guiding tour around the fort.

For those who want to car pool, meet at the Timberline Shopping Plaza on Route 553 in Sewell at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch, beverage, binoculars, and dress to suit the weather.

**Directions:** Take either I-295 or the New Jersey Turnpike south towards the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Exit at Route 49 (last exit in New Jersey). Continue south on Route 49 for about 2 1/2 miles. Bear left on Fort Mott Road (there will be a sign) and go about 2 miles to the park. Travel time from Woodbury is about 45 minutes.

**Field Trip – Babies in Backpacks / Toddlers in Tow  
Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am at West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford  
Trip Leader: Maria Keefe Maria ([MK19@comcast.net](mailto:MK19@comcast.net))**



Get the kids out in the fresh air as we walk West Deptford Scenic Park. We will walk at a toddler's pace exploring as we go. Dress in layers according to the weather. Bring your own backpack and/or a stroller that is able to be pushed on unpaved paths. Anyone is welcome to come even if you aren't bringing a child.

**Directions:** From Exit 21 on I-295, take Delaware Avenue west. In about 0.4 mile, cross Grove Street. Continue for another 0.3 mile, on what is then called Riverwinds Drive. Watch for a sign to the trail, on the right. Meet in the parking lot.

**Field Trip Report: Cedar Lake WMA (October 26) by Barry Bengel**

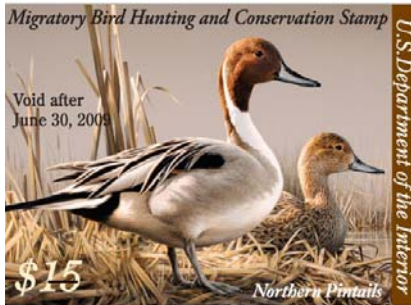
It was a picture-perfect fall day. The air was cool, the sky was cloudless and blue, and the trees were ablaze in autumn color. It was a great day to be on a walk, and six fortunate participants were present on a field trip to the 319-acre Cedar Lake Wildlife Management Area in the lower part of Gloucester County. During this field trip we walked along the shoreline of horseshoe-shaped Cedar Lake, walked the edges of an old cranberry bog, and walked the trails in the surrounding woodlands as well. We spent several hours examining anything and everything interesting: carnivorous plants such as the spatulate-leaved sundew, colorful British soldier lichen, native wild cranberries, and the numerous tiny chorus frogs ever-present along the edges of the bog. We were fortunate enough to have Karl Anderson along on the trip, and as always he shared his vast botanical knowledge and interesting stories with everyone. (Thanks Karl!) Pictures from this trip are posted on the GCNC website.



## Conservation Corner – Duck Stamps by Jayne Rhynard

### Get Smart!

What does \$15 buy these days? Double espresso latte at Starbucks? Enough gas to go to the corner and back? Would you believe valuable protected habitat for wildlife? Since the height of the Great Depression in 1934 when the first annual federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or more popularly - the Duck Stamp, was sold to waterfowl-hunters, sales have generated over .5 billion dollars. 98 cents of each \$1 spent on Duck Stamps goes to purchase habitat. These funds have purchased over 5 million acres for the national wildlife refuge system (including nearly all of Bombay Hook in Delaware). It is one of the most successful conservation programs ever. The contest for the stamp's design is the oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition in America.



As the number of waterfowl-hunters decreases so do stamp sales. That is bad news for the threatened and endangered birds and other wildlife that inhabit or visit wetlands and grasslands like those the stamp benefits, but birders can help pick up the slack from sales to hunters and support conservation benefiting birds. In addition, the stamp buys you free admission to federal refuges from July 1 to June 30.

### Give the Gift of Conservation

The Conservation Committee will take names and purchase Duck Stamps to make it easy for you to support this cause. We will take names at the November meeting, purchase stamps and deliver them to you at the December meeting - just in time for the holidays when everyone is looking for a little gift or stocking stuffer! Or you can also visit <http://www.gos.org/duckstamp/duckstamp.htm>, check out the testimonials and be a part of the movement led by the Georgia Ornithological Society. They offer a deal for the stamp and a nifty holder that attaches to your binoculars for \$17. Showing off the stamp on your binoculars grabs the interest of other birders and helps spread the word. Duck stamps can also be purchased at your local post office or online at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com) or <http://www.usps.com>. Start a new annual tradition and make an affordable investment that yields a truly great return - purchase a Duck Stamp this month.

### Other Nature Notes

#### **Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount to GCNC members!**

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount (for non bird food items) to GCNC members! *Due to the current volatile market for bird food, the 10% discount for these items has had to be discontinued.* However, members will still receive credit for their purchases towards the Frequent Seed Shopper Program. WBU offers the GCNC discount on all other items in the store. Members are requested to identify themselves as GNNC members before their sales are finalized. Questions? Please contact Sharon at (856) 218-2973 or [sillybird348@comcast.net](mailto:sillybird348@comcast.net)



## Events by other Organizations: November 2008

- November 1 (Saturday) - **Fall Foliage walk at Smithville Park, Mount Holly.** 10:00 AM - Noon. Leader: Jen Bulava. Sponsored by the Burlington County Park Commission. For info: [http://www.co.burlington.nj.us.department/resource\\_conservation/parks/](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us.department/resource_conservation/parks/)
- November 8 (Saturday) - **Birding Historic Sites of the Pinelands** (Double Trouble, Crossley, and Hovnanian Sanctuary). 9:00 AM - mid-afternoon. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. \$Fee. For info: <http://njaudubon.org/centers/rancocas/>.
- November 10 (Monday) – **Presentation: Birds and Birding at Cape May** with Pat Sutton. This is the November Meeting of the Audubon Wildlife Society. 7:30 PM at the Collingswood Public Library, at 771 Haddon Ave. Collingswood, NJ. For info: [www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/](http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/) or call Bob Duke at (856) 848-7012.
- November 15 (Saturday) - **Birding at Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR**, for winter waterfowl. Leader: Bob Duke. Sponsored by the Audubon Wildlife Society. For info: [www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/](http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/).

The following events take place at the Scotland Run Nature Center in Clayton. For details and registration, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- Bird Walk: Saturday 11/1 at 8:00 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 11/12 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 11/19 at 2:30 PM
- 4H Kids Nature Club Meeting: Saturday 11/1 at 10:30 AM

## Natural Events for the month of November

- Persimmons ripen - they are delicious when fully soft-ripe, astringent when unripe.
- Witch hazel in bloom.
- Woodchucks and chipmunks go into hibernation.
- Bats seek their hibernating sites in caves and abandoned mines.
- American tree sparrow, sometimes called the "winter chippy", is a regular winter bird feeder visitor.



## **Looking Ahead:**

### **2008-2009 GCNC Programs**

December 11, 2008 – **Global Warming** – Erik Mollenhauer

January 7, 2009 – **Owls of New Jersey** - Don Friday of New Jersey Audubon

February 12, 2009 – **Pot Luck Dinner / The Jersey Devil and Pinelands Folklore** - Jim Albertson

March 12, 2009 - **Birds of The Spring Migration** – Brian Hayes

April 9, 2009 – **The Grand Canyon: White Water Rafting, Canyon History and Geology** - Brett & Erik Mollenhauer

May 14, 2009 – **Native Plants for Insect and Bird Survival and Diversity** - Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology, U. of Del

June 11, 2009 – **Annual Picnic at Red Bank Battlefield and The Art of Karen Paust**

### **2008-2009 GCNC Field Trips**

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the next season. Others may be added as opportunity permits and leaders become available.

December 13 (Saturday) - **Audubon Christmas Bird Count** - Ron Kegel

January 18, 2009 (Sunday) - **Eagles at Conowingo Dam** - Jonathan Stillwell

February 28, 2009 (Saturday) - **Winter Birding at Jakes Landing** - Brian Hayes

March 10, 2009 (Tuesday) - **Full Moon Hike at Alcyon Park** - Kris Mollenhauer

April 19, 2009 (Sunday) - **Wildflowers on the Wenonah Trail** - Richard Dilks

May 16, 2009 (Saturday) - **Birding at Allaire State Park** - Jonathan Weir

June 6 (Saturday) - **Birding at Brightview Farm** - Bob Duke

### **Club Notes:**

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at [blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com](mailto:blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com) or call 468-6536.
- The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program or trip coordinator if you have ideas or would like to help.
- Information for the next newsletter should be sent to Barry Bengel at [sharkeyes@comcast.net](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The November Executive Committee meeting will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Karl Anderson. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.